AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, 23-29, 31-37, 39, and 40 are currently amended. No claims are newly presented.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of charging for directory assistance services that are provided over a packet switched network, the method comprising:

transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information;

tracking number of selected directory listings that are transmitted to and displayed on a the client access device; and

preparing billing information based upon the number of the selected directory listings.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information in the transmitting step includes partial directory information, the method further comprising:

receiving a request for the billing information from the client access device; and transmitting the billing information to the client access device.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting the billing information according to a pre-determined delivery mechanism,

wherein the delivery mechanism includes at least one of e-mail, facsimile, and or paging.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the client access device in the tracking step includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, ~~and~~ or non-PC device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the directory assistance services include at least one of a client controlled querying, modifying, classifying, editing, or web-based text chatting, and wherein the directory listings in the tracking step include a name, an address, and a directory number, ~~the~~ an enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, ~~and~~ or a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and the client access device employs the IP protocol.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the preparing step comprises:

determining a billing arrangement of ~~a~~ the customer; and

computing an invoice amount based upon the billing arrangement, wherein the billing arrangement includes at least one of a transactional based fee arrangement, per seat arrangement, flat rate fee arrangement, ~~and~~ or volume based fee arrangement.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the directory listings in the tracking step are based upon data that is supplied from a local exchange carrier (LEC), a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC), or a third party database.

9. (Currently Amended) A server apparatus for charging for directory assistance services that are provided over a packet switched network, the server apparatus comprising:

a communication system configured to transmit information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information;

a processor configured to track number of selected directory listings that are transmitted to and displayed on a the client access device and to prepare billing information based upon the number of directory listings; and

a memory coupled to the processor configured to store the number of the selected directory listings.

10. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the information in the transmitting step includes partial directory information, further comprising:

a communication interface configured to receive a request for the billing information from the client access device, and to transmit the billing information to the client access device over the packet switched network.

11. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a communication interface configured to transmit the billing information according to a pre-determined delivery mechanism, wherein the delivery mechanism includes at least one of e-mail, facsimile, and or paging.

12. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the client access device includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, ~~and~~ <u>or</u> non-PC device.

13. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 9, <u>wherein the directory assistance services include at least one of a client controlled querying, modifying, classifying, editing, or web-based text chatting, and</u> wherein the directory listings include a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, ~~and~~ <u>or</u> a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

14. (Original) The server apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and the client access device employs the IP protocol.

15. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the processor is configured to determine a billing arrangement of ~~a~~ <u>the</u> customer, and to compute an invoice amount based upon the billing arrangement, wherein the billing arrangement includes at least one of a transactional based fee arrangement, per seat arrangement, flat rate fee arrangement ~~and~~ <u>or</u> volume based fee arrangement.

16. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the directory listings are based upon data that is supplied from <u>a local exchange carrier (LEC),</u> a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC)<u>, or a third party database.</u>

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17. (Currently Amended) A server apparatus for charging for directory assistance services that are provided over a packet switched network, the server apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information;

means for tracking number of selected directory listings that are transmitted to and displayed on a the client access device; and

means for preparing billing information based upon the number of the selected directory listings.

18. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the information in the transmitting step includes partial directory information, the apparatus further comprising:

means for receiving a request for the billing information from the client access device; and

means for transmitting the billing information to the client access device.

19. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for transmitting the billing information according to a pre-determined delivery mechanism, wherein the delivery mechanism includes at least one of e-mail, facsimile, and or paging.

20. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the client access device includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, ~~and~~ <u>or</u> non-PC device.

21. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 17<u>, wherein the directory assistance services include at least one of a client controlled querying, modifying, classifying, editing, or web-based text chatting, and</u> wherein the directory listings include a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, ~~and~~ <u>or</u> a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

22. (Original) The server apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and the client access device employs the IP protocol.

23. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the preparing means comprises:

means for determining a billing arrangement of ~~a~~ <u>the</u> customer; and

means for computing an invoice amount based upon the billing arrangement, wherein the billing arrangement includes at least one of a transactional based fee arrangement, per seat arrangement; flat rate fee arrangement, ~~and~~ <u>or</u> volume based fee arrangement.

24. (Currently Amended) The server apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the directory listings are based upon data that is supplied from <u>a local exchange carrier (LEC),</u> a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC)<u>, or a third party database</u>.

25. (Currently Amended) An on-line directory assistance service system for charging for directory assistance services that are provided over a packet switched network, the system comprising:

a system configured to transmit information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information;

a server configured to track number of selected directory listings that are transmitted to and displayed on a the client access device and to prepare billing information based upon the number of directory listings; and

a database coupled to the server and configured to store the selected directory listings.

26. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the information in the transmitting step includes partial directory information, and the server is configured to receive a request for the billing information from the client access device, and to transmit the billing information to the client access device over the packet switched network.

27. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the server is configured to transmit the billing information according to a pre-determined delivery mechanism, wherein the delivery mechanism includes at least one of e-mail, facsimile, and or paging.

28. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the client access device includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, ~~and~~ or non-PC device.

29. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the directory assistance services include at least one of a client controlled querying, modifying, classifying, editing, or web-based text chatting, and wherein the directory listings include a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice-mail, an e-mail address, ~~and~~ or a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

30. (Original) The system according to claim 25, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and the client access device employs the IP protocol.

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the server is configured to determine a billing arrangement of ~~a~~ the customer, and to compute an invoice amount based upon the billing arrangement, wherein the billing arrangement includes at least one of a transactional based fee arrangement, per seat arrangement, flat rate fee arrangement, ~~and~~ or volume based fee arrangement.

32. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the directory listings are based upon data that is supplied from local exchange carriers (LECs), a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC), or third party databases.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for charging for directory assistance services that are provided over a packet switched network, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information;

tracking number of selected directory listings that are transmitted to ~~and displayed on a~~ the client access device; and

preparing billing information based upon the number of the selected directory listings.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the information in the transmitting step includes partial directory information, and wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

receiving a request for the billing information from the client access device; and transmitting the billing information to the client access device.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

transmitting the billing information according to a pre-determined delivery mechanism, wherein the delivery mechanism includes at least one of e-mail, facsimile ~~and~~ or paging.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the client access device in the tracking step includes at least one of a personal computer (PC), a PDA (personal digital assistant), a web-appliance, an e-mail client, a web-enabled cell phone, ~~and~~ or non-PC device.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, <u>wherein the directory assistance services include at least one of a client controlled querying, modifying, classifying, editing, or web-based text chatting, and</u> wherein the directory listings in the tracking step include a name, an address, and a directory number, the enhanced content data including at least one of a mobile number, a pager number, a facsimile number, a voice mail, an e-mail address, ~~and~~ <u>or</u> a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifier.

38. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and the client access device employs the IP protocol.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the preparing step comprises:

determining a billing arrangement of ~~a~~ <u>the</u> customer; and

computing an invoice amount based upon the billing arrangement, wherein the billing arrangement includes at least one of a transactional based fee arrangement, per seat arrangement, flat rate fee arrangement, ~~and~~ <u>or</u> volume based fee arrangement.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the directory listings are based upon data that is supplied from <u>a local exchange carrier (LEC),</u> a Regional Bell Operating Company (RBOC)<u>, or a third party database</u>.